

AYLS133_AYLS330_Approach | IofC Panafrica_Simplified



HTML Content

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SourceURL: <https://www.iofcfrica.org/en/approach>

The IofC Approach

Recognising that it will take more than human reason and ability to solve the problems of the world, IofC places the search for inner wisdom at the heart of its approach. When people listen to what is deepest in their hearts, insights often come which lead in unexpected directions. Many understand this experience as guidance from God, others as the leading of conscience or the inner voice. The regular practice of silence can give access to a source of truth, renewal, inspiration and empowerment. Also integral to IofC is a commitment to:

Start with oneself

An honest look at one's own motives and behaviour is often the start of personal transformation. Cultural and religious traditions across the world offer moral standards as guides for individual and community living. Of these, IofC singles out values of honesty, unselfishness, love and purity of heart and action as practical tests for motives and daily actions.

Listen to others

Honest conversation, undertaken in an open spirit, builds bridges of trust and community between people of similar, different, and even antagonistic,

backgrounds. These enable healing, partnership and common action.

Take focused action

IofC's people and programmes seek to strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of society and to bring healing and reconciliation where there is conflict; build bridges of trust between different communities and countries; embed ethics, justice and transparency in the global economy; empower leadership to act with integrity, serve unselfishly and be effective agents of change.

AYLS133_AYLS330_Common Actions | IofC Panafrica_Screenshot

SourceURL: <https://www.iofc.org/en/common-actions>

The screenshot shows the IofC Panafrica website. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Home, About Us, Programmes (with Common Actions highlighted), Newsroom, Get Involved, and Contacts. Below the navigation is a section titled 'IOFC IN BRIEF' with a brief description of who they are. The main content area is titled 'Common Actions' and discusses initiatives like Trustbuilding, Ethical Leadership, and Sustainable Living. It also mentions the South Sudan Initiative and Asia Plateau. A photograph of a rural landscape is visible in the background of the main content area.

Common Actions

Initiatives of Change focuses on:

Trustbuilding
Ethical Leadership
Sustainable Living

In addition to its many programmes and local or regional initiatives, **Common Actions** have been identified as:

 **South Sudan Initiative and Asia Plateau**

To support the process of reconciliation in Africa's newest nation.

Who we are: Initiatives of Change (IofC) is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the

transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.



Purpose: We work to inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves, in the areas of trustbuilding, ethical leadership and sustainable living.

A worldwide resource for ethical leadership training and good go



Initiative for Land, Lives an

To deepen understanding of links between security and to build the trust needed for peace' initiatives.

Français

AYLS133_AYLS330_Workshop for Africa | IofC Panafrica_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://www.iofc.org/en/workshop-africa>

Workshop for Africa

The need for good governance, defined by Chief Enyaoku as “ethical leadership and equality of all citizens before the law”, inspired a new emphasis on what IofC should be doing in Africa. At the May 2012 Consultation in Cameroon, IofC representatives from Africa decided to put maximum effort into this priority in order to make a measurable impact on the fight against corruption and to help strengthen civil, political and business institutions in Africa in the service of their people.

What is Good Governance?

Three elements were identified as encompassing the content and outreach of good governance:

- Incurruptible leadership. Continue to develop and expand the ethical leadership training through the Harambee Leadership Training Programme.
- Equality before the law or active citizenship Help individuals and

- Equality before the law or active citizenship. Help movements and institutions of civil society strengthen their own voices and abilities to engage constructively with authorities.
- Needs-based development. Engage with authorities and communities, individually and in partnership with other organisations, to build community enterprise and employment.

Purpose

The lack of good governance practices in many countries in Africa, evidenced by corruption, unequal access to the law and uneven distribution of development benefits, is to be addressed through campaigns to promote clean elections, active citizenship and ethical leadership.

Background

During Harambee Africa Leadership Programme 2011, in Nigeria, Chief Emeka Enyaoku, former secretary general of the Commonwealth, identified the lack of good governance as Africa's highest priority. This led to the concept of a continental campaign to build ethical leadership and active citizenship in African countries.

Beneficiaries

Civil society institutions in Africa; civic bodies; Clean Election campaigns; political and business groups. Benefits include training in ethical governance and strengthening the integrity of civic institutions.

AYLS133_AYLS330About Us | IofC Panafrica_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://www.iofc.org/en/about-us>

IofC Panafrica

Who We Are



Initiatives of Change (IofC) is a world-wide movement of people of diverse cultures and backgrounds, who are committed to the transformation of society through changes in human motives and behaviour, starting with their own.

Many of the world's problems – and their solutions – are rooted in human nature. Fear, hate, greed and indifference perpetuate injustice, poverty, conflict and environmental destruction. Yet it is also in human nature to be compassionate, courageous and creative. People can live the change they wish to see.

Our Vision

A just, peaceful and sustainable world to which everyone, responding to the call of conscience, makes their own unique contribution.

Our Mission

To inspire, equip and connect people to address world needs, starting with themselves.

Our Work

Is based around the interaction of people, whether few or many, in homes, small or large groups, training courses, dialogues and local or international conferences. We focus on trustbuilding, ethical leadership and sustainable living. Where possible we seek to bring our people-based approach to partner alongside groups that provide technical expertise on specific issues.

Common Actions

As expressions of the three focus areas, Initiatives of Change works collaboratively at the international level on three major projects:

AYLS133_AYLSAYLS330_Brief History | IofC Panafrica_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://www.iofc.org/en/brief-history>

IofC Panafrica

A Brief History

Initiatives of Change has been active for over 80 years. It grew out of the work of Frank Buchman (1878-1961), an American Lutheran minister. Buchman

affirmed that there is a divine purpose for the world and everyone in it, and demonstrated the connection between faith and change in society. Over the years his work expanded to include people of different religions and none. In the 1920s his work became known as the Oxford Group and in 1938 was named Moral Re-Armament. It changed its name to Initiatives of Change in 2001. The timeline below marks some key moments in this ongoing work.

1908



Frank Buchman

Buchman, an American Lutheran minister of Swiss descent who was the originator of Initiatives of Change, has a spiritual experience of release from bitterness in crucial relationships that alters the course of his life

The Oxford Group (1927)



Buchman's experience in 1908 convinces him that moral compromise destroys human character and relationships and that moral clarity is a prerequisite for building a just society. His ideas take root at Oxford and in some American universities and his work becomes known as the 'Oxford Group'.

1935



Alcoholics Anonymous

Buchman's ideas spread through the 1930s into many sectors and on to other continents. Alcoholics Anonymous is established in 1935 as a direct result of the liberating experiences which some people find through their contact with the Oxford Group.

Moral Re-Armament



1938

As European nations re-arm for war, Buchman calls for 'moral and spiritual re-armament' as the way to build a 'hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world'. Following World War II, Moral Re-Armament (MRA), as it becomes known, launches a programme

or moral and spiritual reconstruction to foster change in private and public life based on a change in motivation and character. Buchman also emphasised the importance of faith. He believed that God has a purpose for people's lives and for mankind as a whole, and he encouraged people to seek God's wisdom in regular times of silence and reflection.

Buchman, a devout Christian, described Moral Re-Armament as 'the good road of an ideology inspired by God upon which all can unite. Catholic, Jew and Protestant, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Confucianist - all find they can change, where needed and travel along this good road together.'

1946



Caux, Switzerland

MRA opens an international conference center in [Caux](#), Switzerland, which is made possible through the generosity and hard work of hundreds of Swiss citizens.

Germans to Caux

At a time when any contact with the Germans is extremely difficult, Buchman and his colleagues invite Germans to Caux. Over the next four years growing number of Germans and French come to Caux and their encounters become the basis of a massive development in reconciliation. Buchman is later decorated by both the German and French governments for his contribution to European reconciliation.

1947



1949



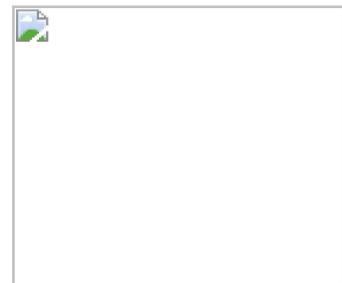
Reconciliation

Conferences at Caux and similar ones at Mackinac Island in the US, achieve further public recognition through several other major contributions to international

developments in the post-war years. Notably the part played in the reconciliation of Japan with her South-East Asian neighbors, and in the achievement of independence by several African countries without major bloodshed.

MRA Expands

By the 1950s, casts of plays presenting MRA's ideas are traveling all over the world. Centers are established in Latin America, India, Japan and several countries in Africa.



1950

1961



Buchman Dies

When Buchman dies in 1961, the former British political journalist Peter Howard assumes the leadership of MRA, but four years later he too dies. Without a clearly identified leadership to ensure cohesion, unresolved differences among those taking responsibility begins to surface.

Up With People

In some countries a new approach is tried, concentrating on the younger generation, and in others more traditional ways continue. Up With People, which develops into a global educational programme, becomes a spin-off from MRA. After a period of uncertainty and dissension, trust is slowly re-established, with valuable lessons learned.



1965

1968



Asia Plateau

1968 sees the opening of **Asia Plateau** - a major international center for the training of people from industry, education and

other national sectors in Panchgani, India.

Period of Consolidation

With reconciliation a primary need in many parts of the world, much of MRA's work concentrates on supporting peace-making initiatives in Africa and Asia.



1970s

1980s



Britain

During this period in Britain some of the work is focused on bettering industrial relations at the big car and steel manufacturing plants, important at that time for economic stability, and some on the growing multiculturalism of the country's large cities.

Collapse of Communism

The collapse of Communism triggers new needs and opportunities for the rebuilding of democracy in the post-Soviet world. This becomes one of the major focal points in the 90s.



1990s

1990s



New Initiatives

Other initiatives that develop throughout the 90s are **Hope in the Cities**, which is created to bridge the racial divide in the US; *Clean Election Campaigns* in Taiwan, Brazil and Kenya; and a continuing concern for the creation of moral and spiritual infrastructure for development in both rich and poorer nations.

Name Change



2001

With the approach of the new millennium, there is world-wide recognition that the words 'moral re-armament' no longer hold the same resonance as they did in 1938. In 2001 the new name Initiatives of Change (IofC) is [announced to the world's media](#) by the Caux President, Dr Cornelio Sommaruga (former President of the international Red Cross), and Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma.

2013



Today

While ways of expressing truth, and methods of coordinating the global work, continue to change as succeeding generations take on this particular responsibility for the moral and spiritual renewal of society, the essential philosophy of IofC remains the same - that personal change can lead to social, economic and political change. With its emphasis on experience rather than philosophy, it provides a focus where people of different religious and political persuasions can meet without compromising their own beliefs, and be part of a global network committed to working for change in the world.

[Fuller history>>](#)

AYLS133_Eastern Africa Youth Forum | IofC Panafrica_Simplified

SourceURL: <https://www.iofc.org/en/eastern-africa-youth-forum>

Eastern Africa Youth Forum

The Eastern Africa Youth Forum (EAYF) is an annual programme that is designed to guide young visionary leaders towards ethical living and leadership within the Eastern Africa region (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, North Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia.) It is a programme of Initiatives of Change (IofC), a network of people committed to the transformation of society based on change in individuals starting with themselves.

Participants are challenged to examine their relationships and role in society through times of reflection, plenary sessions, workshops and community work. They are encouraged to look at their own hopes, fears and motivations and examine their relationships with an aim to make a collective search for answers to common issues and concerns faced in the region.

Vision

An Africa that is economically prosperous, politically vibrant, ecologically sustainable and socially inclusive a continent of people who celebrate their cultural heritage and diversity, bringing hope to the world (*Developed by Harambee 5 participants in Ethiopia, 2009*)

Objectives

1. Create a Central support system for young Eastern Africa leaders to address common issues faced in the region.
2. Share Experiences, learn from each other and emulate best practices.
3. To encourage transparency and Accountability in the young Eastern Africa minds as they aspire to take up leadership opportunities.
4. Create a harmonious and prosperous region that other countries in Africa and beyond can emulate.
5. Support the MDG's by creating awareness

Birth of EAYF

After the 5th *Harambee* Africa leadership training by Initiatives of Chang in Ethiopia in 2009, that implored on relevant and tactful leadership in responding to issues facing Africa, the delegates from the Eastern Africa bloc made a resolution to hold an annual caucus within the region to discuss common issues faced and how to respond to them. The idea to have an Eastern Africa Youth Forum (previously called Eastern Africa Youth Conference) was thus born and Kenya was honoured with the opportunity to host the first forum in 2011 and Uganda hosted the second one in 2012.

Activities

1. Annual EAYF: EAYF aims to annually create a common ground for 90 young people from the 9 Eastern Africa region to come together to discuss and brainstorm on how best to address the common problems facing their countries. The annual common forum is to take place in the different countries on a rotational basis and since we had the first one in 2011, the last of these forums is expected to take place in the year 2019!

Annual EAYF progress so far

- February 2011 – Nakuru, Kenya
- February 2012- Kampala, Uganda
- February 2013- Kigali, Rwanda
- February 2014- Bujumbura, Burundi
- February 2015- South Sudan- Plans underway

2. Leadership Forums/Workshops: ‘Integrity Youth Campaign’: EAYF will host ‘Youth Integrity Campaigns’ in the 9 countries to empower, encourage, capacity build and offer mentorship to young people who are courageous enough to stand up and give ethical leadership and governance in their society. Every year for next three years (2013-2015), EAYF will run 3-one week mini workshops in 3 countries for 30 committed young leaders in each country hence comprehensively empowering and mentoring 270 young people around Eastern Africa!

Justification

As IofC, we believe that, it’s time for young leaders to prepare and take up leadership of this continent for the sake of their generation and generations to

leadership or this comment for the sake of their generation and generations to come. With poor leadership, even the best drafted blue prints and strategies are doomed to fail! This is therefore an opportunity to reflect on the gains made in the region, re-strategize on failed tactics, re-invent new strategies, re-implement them and re-evaluate for the good of the continent.

Contacts

To contact the EAYF planning team: [Email here](#)